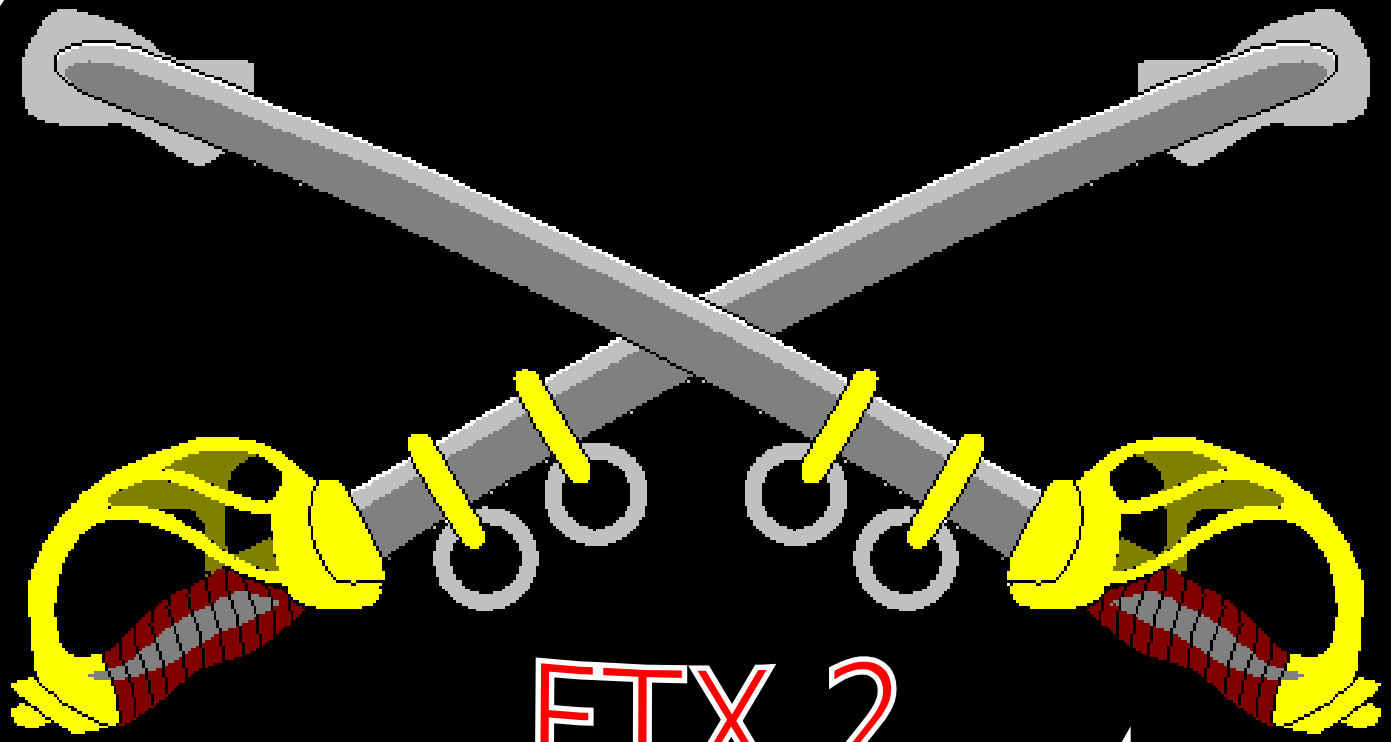
CAVALRY SCOUT CLUB



FTX 2
AREA RECON

After several weeks of Club Night meetings, the Troop was ready to get into the field to execute an Area Recon.

CAV Scouts require lots of equipment. The club leadership set up an issue point in the field to expedite the process.

The Troop learns Property Accountability – a must for any leader.

Welcome to the “Sign-your-life-away point”.

Troop Leading Procedures:

Troop Commander and Platoon Leaders receive and analyze the Area Recon mission. A verbal WARNO is given.

While the Troop's officers are working on the tactical plan, the Troop's NCOs are preparing the vehicles and scouts for the mission.

Modest accommodations.

Special coordination with Fort Dix allowed the Troop to sign for sleeping bags. They would come in very handy when the temperatures dropped. No video games, no IM, nothing but rack time after the mission was complete.

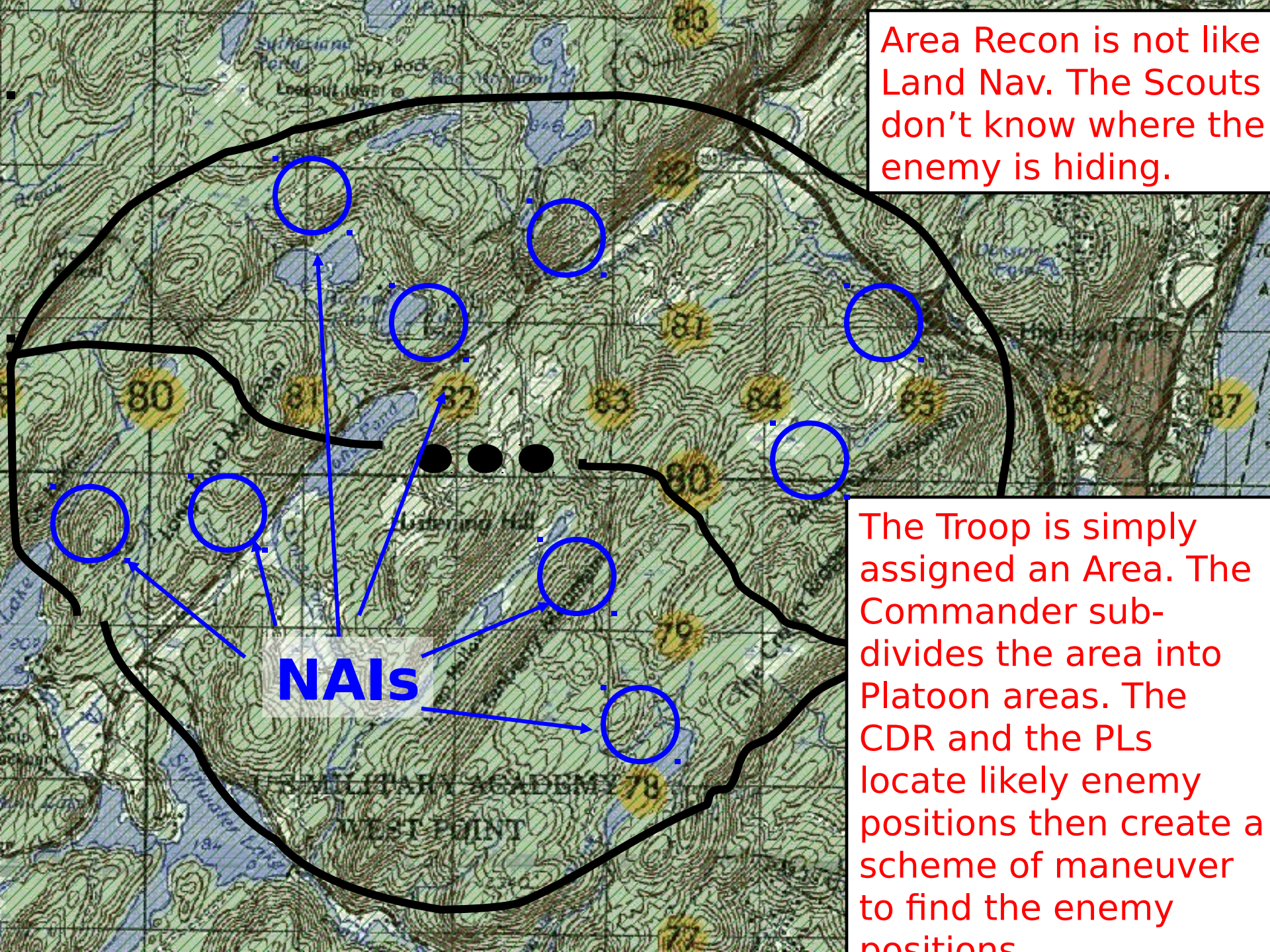
If you need it – check it!

Vehicle mounted radios offer great ranges for commo but also require a little more maintenance.

You must possess the “Will to Communicate” in the Troop.

Plans and orders make their way down to the Scouts. Rehearsing a few battle drills pays off; the Platoon that finds the most enemy targets wins bragging rights in the Troop.

The search begins. Enemy targets are “E-Type” silhouettes with a number. The scouts don’t have any idea where the targets are; they must conduct a thorough mission analysis and IPB (intelligence preparation of the battlefield). Suspected areas are designated NAIs (named areas of interest). Platoon leaders begin the mission.


Area Recon is not like Land Nav. The Scouts don't know where the enemy is hiding.
NAIs
The Troop is simply assigned an Area. The Commander sub-divides the area into Platoon areas. The CDR and the PLs locate likely enemy positions then create a scheme of maneuver to find the enemy positions.

The Troop commander conducted a map recon and selected a good spot for the Troop TOC (tactical operations center). The spot selected had to have good elevation to enable long range radio communications.

Target # 12 found. This enemy OP (observation post) was located on some high ground near a key intersection in the training area.

It takes dismounted Scouts to find the enemy.

A Scout is of little use without communications. “Spot Reports” were quick and accurate. This information allows the Troop commander to confirm or deny his IPB.

The Troop TOC has got to be mobile. The road to this spot was an uphill battle – to say the least.

Day One – mission complete. Back to Assembly Area Mohawk for food and fellowship (and heat).

Chow is served. Here are a couple of Scouts doing the “KP Thing”. The Troop’s S-4 ran LOGPAC (the logistical package) the same way its done across the Army – only difference is we ate better.

The Troop got a good night's rest.

Day Two started with "Stand To" and "REDCON 1".

"SABER 6, this is MOHAWK 6 – REDCON 1, Over."

"Roger MOHAWK 6, FRAGO Follows – are you ready to copy?"

“Move to WL123456 to new Assembly Area. Conduct Resupply, over”.

The Troop got a FRAGO (fragmentary order) and moved about 5 km through the training area to receive breakfast.

Scouts like the high ground and ...

… Scouts like hot chow.

The Troop ate breakfast at AA SABER and went into Troop Leading Procedures for the second day’s mission. The platoons would switch areas and begin a new recon.

Everything was better the second time around. Communications were better, IPB was better, and the Scouts were better. 90% of the enemy targets were captured on the second day as compared with only 60% the previous day.

Captured enemy targets were treated as enemy prisoners of war IAW the ROE and the Laws of Land Warfare.

The Troop started to sound like, look like and act like their Regular Army counterparts.

15
6
80

The Troop had to turn in all the equipment. The Troop S-4 demanded high standards for turn in (aka “got his *supply sergeant* haze on”).

“He was real nice when we signed for everything.”

The After Action Review – short but sweet.

The Troop is ready to go Force on Force. Next FTX is “Recon vs Security”, 13 to 14 NOV

GO
MOHAWK!